

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109481  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 DHA-02 INR-07 CIAE-00  
L-03 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT:BJR  
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT  
-----141701Z 003710 /70 L

O 141628Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, PINS, BU

SUBJECT: RECIPROCAL ELIMINATION OF TRAVEL CONTROLS

REF: (A) SOFIA 0912; (B) SOFIA 0665 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS PURPOSELY BEEN HOLDING UP ON REPLY TO  
GOB PROPOSAL OF JANUARY CONCERNING MUTUAL ELIMINATION OF  
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE WE HAVE CONSIDERED THAT THIS  
ISSUE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY GIVE US A PRESSURE POINT FOR  
POSSIBLE USE IN CONNECTION WITH RESOLUTION OF MAREV CASE.  
IN ADDITION, IN THIS SAME CONNECTION, WE HAVE CONSIDERED  
(A) WHETHER IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO RESORT TO GENERAL  
FREEZE ON FORWARD MOVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH GOB AT SOME  
POINT, AND (B) HOW INTERESTED US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL  
REPRESENTATIVES, MAREVS, AND GOB ITSELF, WOULD INTERPRET  
OUR LIFTING OF CLOSED ZONES, WHICH WOULD BE ANNOUNCED  
PUBLICLY, IN ABSENCE OF RESOLUTION OF MAREV CASE.

2. EMBASSY HAS RAISED POSSIBILITY IN REF A OF WITHDRAWING  
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OUR PERMISSION FOR SAN FRANCISCO COMMERCIAL OFFICE AS A  
SANCTION. WE HAVE BEEN WEIGHING FACT THAT CONTINUED  
APPLICATION OF TRAVEL CONTROLS WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON  
OPERATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE. AS REVEALED AT  
TIME POLAND PREPARED TO OPEN ITS SIMILAR COMMERICAL OFFICE

IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1974, THE JIGSAW PUZZLE-LIKE ARRANGE-

MENT OF CLOSED ZONES IN THE BAY AREA ALONE, COUPLED WITH REQUIREMENT TO SEEK EXCEPTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, WOULD SEVERELY HANDICAP THE BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL OPERATION THERE. ALTHOUGH BULGARIANS HAVE NOT YET COMPLAINED ABOUT EFFECT OF TRAVEL CONTROLS IN THIS RESPECT, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE CERTAIN TO ONCE IMPACT BECOMES KNOWN. WE COULD INFORM THE GOB THAT, SO LONG AS IT WAS NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW MAREV CHILDREN TO LEAVE, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COOPERATE WITH GOB IN SUCH FORWARD STEPS AS ELIMINATION OF TRAVEL CONTROLS.

3. ON OTHER SIDE OF COIN, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THOSE IN GOB INTERESTED SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE AND IN PROMOTION OF TRADE WITH THE US IN GENERAL ARE RATHER FAR REMOVED FROM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONS IN THE MAREV CASE. IN ADDITION, BULGARIANS SEEM TO BE MOVING VERY SLOWLY, IF AT ALL, IN OPENING THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE. THUS WE QUESTION EFFECTIVENESS OF WITHHOLDING TRAVEL-CONTROL ACTION FOR PURPOSE OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND EVEN OF WITHDRAWING PERMISSION FOR OFFICE ITSELF, UNLESS SUCH ACTIONS WERE PART OF A MUCH BROADER FREEZE ON US RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS REMOVED TO BENEFIT EMBASSY SOFIA AND TO FIT IN WITH OUR CSCE FINAL ACT OBJECTIVES.

4. ON BALANCE AT THIS POINT, WE LEAN TOWARD CONTINUATION OF "HOLD" ON ACTION TO REMOVE THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE OF PRESSURE THAT THIS MIGHT IMPOSE ON GOB RE MAREV CASE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE REMOVAL NOW WOULD GIVE WRONG SIGNAL TO PUBLIC, MAREVS, AND TO GOB. IN LINE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS THINKING, WE SHOULD INFORM GOB AT APPROPRIATE POINT THAT WE HAVE PURPOSELY HELD UP FORWARD ACTION ON THIS ISSUE.

5. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE DURING HIS SOFIA VISIT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** RECIPROCAL ELIMINATION OF TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CGEN, PINS, BU, US  
**To:** SOFIA  
**Type:** TE  
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